



The Dow Chemical Company
Midland, Michigan 48674

June 24, 2005

Via Facsimile: 202-225-8798

The Honorable William M. Thomas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thomas:

As a global company with significant American operations, The Dow Chemical Company strongly supports Congressional action to provide leadership on free trade and to secure access to new markets for American goods, services and investment.

That is the why I am encouraging you to support the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). This agreement will level the playing field for American manufacturers across Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Nearly 80% of U.S. imports from DR-CAFTA are duty-free today – due to the one-way market access programs already provided to those countries. Except for textiles, 93% of U.S. manufactured goods imported from DR-CAFTA already are duty-free. This important agreement makes trade two-way and levels the playing field.

We support passage of the DR-CAFTA agreement on its merits, and as an opportunity for U.S. to continue to lead in promoting trade liberalization, particularly among our neighbors. Trade liberalization provides opportunities for all countries – developed and developing – to increase their standard of living, expand consumer choice and ensure sustained economic growth.

Your support for DR-CAFTA is critical. A positive vote on this trade agreement sends a strong message to the world of America's sustained leadership on developing a global, rules-based trading system and on completing the WTO Doha Development Agenda. The Doha negotiations are an historic opportunity to reduce barriers to American competitiveness around the globe. I hope that we can count on your leadership.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew N. Liveris
President and Chief Executive Officer